



Visitor Programs and Events, Spring 2012

Sandy Hook Unit

What's With The ♥?

Gateway's programs are wonderful ways to stimulate your mind and your senses, but did you know that many of them provide fantastic opportunities to get some exercise? Our hikes, service projects, and paddles are great ways to get your heart going, while you enjoy the natural beauty and historic treasures that surround you. Just look for the ♥ next to the program listing for programs that require walks of a mile or more, or moderate physical exertion. Let Gateway pump you up!



Coastal Defenses Day and Ocean Fun Day Sunday, May 20

A Sandy Hook tradition! Join us for a day of programs that highlight the unique historic treasures, and coastal environment found at Sandy Hook. Discover how Sandy Hook's environment and history are closely intertwined. All programs are open to the public, and are free of charge! See page 4 for a full listing of programs

Receive this Program Guide Electronically

This program guide is published four times a year. If you are not on our email list and wish to receive this publication and notices of special programs and events, please email Charles.Markis@nps.gov, put "program guide" in the subject line to request addition to our list.

Celebrating Gateway's 40 Fabulous Years:

Plan to attend:
**Coastal Defenses Day and
Ocean Fun Day
Sunday, May 20**

Battery Gunnison
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

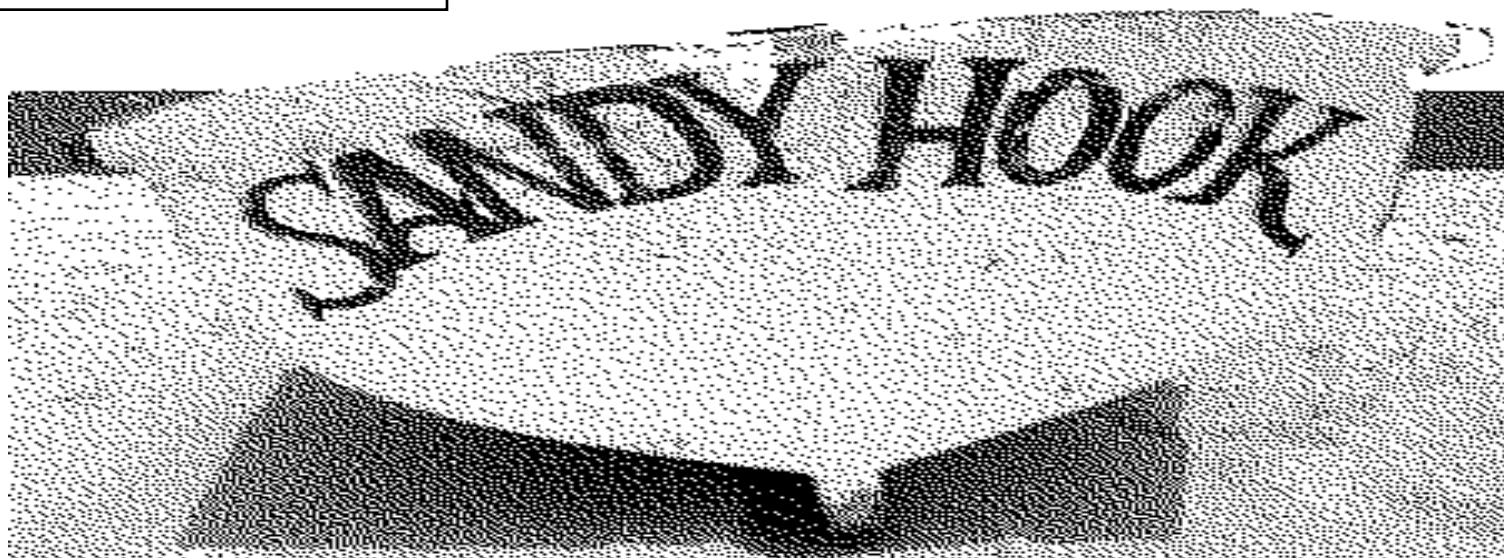
Mortar Battery
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Fort Hancock Parade Ground
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

History House
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**New Jersey
Sea Grant Consortium**
Building 22, Fort Hancock
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

NOAA Open House
**James J. Howard Marine
Laboratory**
See full listings inside p. 4.



Continuing Programs

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Reopens Sunday, March 25

Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Visitor Center is the historic 1894 Spermaceti Cove Life Saving Station and featuring exhibits, films, and a staffed information desk.

Sandy Hook Lighthouse & Keepers Quarters

Daily 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The 1883 Keepers Quarters has exhibits on New Jersey Lighthouses. The nearby keeper's barn is open with a video on the history of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse. Tours are first-come first-served. You must be 48 inches or taller to climb the tower.

History House

Saturdays and Sundays

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

An Officer Row house, built in 1898, furnished circa 1940's.

Battery Potter

Saturdays May 1 through May 31

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

America's first disappearing gun battery, completed in 1892.

Mortar Battery

Sundays May 1 through May 31

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The 1890 Mortar Battery was among the first Endicott-style concrete gun batteries built as part of New York Harbor defense against attack from the sea.

Nike Missile Site Tours

Saturday, April 14, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 21, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 29, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 5, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 12, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, May 20, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The Fort Hancock Nike Site NY 56 Volunteer Association provide guided tours of the "top secret" Nike Missile Radar Site. All tours are free!

Migration Watch

Battery Peck Observation Deck

Open Daily, March 1-May15

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

New Jersey Audubon's annual spring count of migrating water birds, raptors, and songbirds as they wing past Sandy Hook.

March

Lighthouse to Lighthouse Tour

Start at Sandy Hook Light; conclude at New Jersey Twin Lights State Historic Site

Sunday, March 11

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Park Historians Margaret Carlsen and Thomas Hoffman take a group through the Sandy Hook and Twin Lights lighthouses (respectively) for this special tour. Start at the Sandy Hook Light at 5 p.m., and car caravan over to Twin Lights after the Sandy Hook lighthouse tour concludes.

Call (732) 872 – 5970 for reservations.

American Littoral Society Spring Equinox Walk

Fort Hancock-Guardian Park

Tuesday, March 20

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

It's one of the two days in the year when daylight and darkness have agreed to equally share the day-and a great evening for a nature walk! Reservation required. Free.

Call (732) 291 – 0055 for reservations.

♥ 3 miles

April

Weird Sandy Hook

Fort Hancock Theater Parking Lot

Sunday, April 15

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Think you know everything about Sandy Hook? Discover the places where these strange but true events took place on the Hook: Find out where "Pilot Tom" the weeping whale scared the army's bravest soldiers, and where and why post commander Colonel Deems almost lost his job for the love of a fox terrier named Riley. Visitors will get to be explosive experts at the site of the deadly army proving ground and help solve mysteries from Fort Hancock's spooky and explosive past. Call (732) 872 – 5970 for reservations. ♥ 1 mile

Battery Gunnison Preserved

Battery Gunnison

Saturday, April 21

12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The Army Ground Forces Association is a volunteer group in era coast artillery uniforms as they restore and interpret Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Step back in time to April 1943, to when the battery was remodeled with two 6-inch guns from old Battery Peck.

COA Spring Beach Sweep

Parking Lot D

Saturday, April 21

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Help clean the beaches at the annual statewide Clean Ocean Action Spring Beach Sweeps. All ages welcome. Bring work gloves, dress for the weather, and wear closed toe shoes. The event is rain or shine. Visit www.cleanoceanaction.org for more information or call (732) 872-0111.

American Littoral Society Holly Forest Exploration

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, April 28

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Some of the oldest holly trees in the country can be found among Sandy Hook's nearly 300 acres of holly forest. Join the American Littoral Society for this hike through the 64-acre maritime forest and see some of the oldest, rarest, and largest holly trees. Waterproof footwear is recommended ♥ 1 mile

Going Bunkers

Celebrating War of 1812 Bicentennial

Mortar Battery

Sunday, April 29

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Discover the role Sandy Hook played in New York Harbor Defenses. Explore hidden fortifications normally closed to the public. Call (732) 872 – 5970 for reservations. ♥ ½ mile

May

New Jersey Audubon Birding for Beginners

**Sandy Hook Visitor Center
Parking Lot**

Saturday May 5

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join naturalists with NJ Audubon for a walk designed for anyone new to bird watching. The trip will focus on many bird species that call Sandy Hook home, including nesting ospreys, American oystercatchers, and more.

Full Flower Moon Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Saturday, May 5

7 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Explore Sandy Hook's Holly Forest on this sensory led walk with a park ranger. Bring a flash light and your five senses. ♥ 1 mile

Secret Places of

Sandy Hook

Celebrating War of 1812 Bicentennial

Sunday, May 6

2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Visit some of the less visited, out-of-the-way places on Sandy Hook. This ranger-led car caravan tour will make stops around Sandy Hook to explore historic sites around the Hook.

Please wear walking shoes and flashlights. The program is free but call (732) 872-5970 for reservations.

♥ ½ mile

Junior Ranger Fire Fighter

**Fire Station Number One (across
from the Sandy Hook Lighthouse)**

Wednesday, May 9

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Children ages 7-14, accompanied by an adult, work alongside National Park Service Firefighters to recreate how fires are extinguished at Fort Hancock now and in the past, using everything from hose carts to fire engines. Call (732) 872-5970 for reservations.

American Littoral Society Surf Fishing Clinic

ALS HQ, Building 18

(Officers Row)

Saturday, May 12

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join an ALS instructor for a day of surf fishing and instruction on casting, knot tying, lure/bait selection and “reading” a beach. Rods, reels and tackle will be provided. Children under 18 are welcome with a supervising adult. Bring your own lunch. Fee: \$20 per Family/Individual Member; \$40 per Non-Member Family/Individual. Call ALS at (732) 291 – 0055.

Clean Ocean Action Student Summit

Tuesday & Wednesday

May 15 & 16

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Student Summit provides middle-school students the opportunity to experience hands-on, marine environmental education. Activities include horseshoe crab discovery, project terrapin and seashell and invertebrate identification. Schools must register on-line with Clean Ocean Action at www.CleanOceanAction.org.

Junior Ranger Coast Artillery Corps Gunner

Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Wednesday, May 16

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Children ages 7-12, accompanied by an adult, will learn to practice the duties of army soldiers who were cannoneers at Fort Hancock during WWII. Call (732) 872-5970 for reservations.

World War II Harbor Defense Lantern Tour

Fort Hancock Museum

Friday, May 18

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

This very special night tour explores how Fort Hancock's big guns protected New York City during World War II. Join a ranger and volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association, all in 1943 army uniform, for a walk through the Mortar Battery, Battery Potter and Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Bring a flashlight.

Battery Gunnison Preserved

Battery Gunnison

Saturday, May 19

12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association will be in 1943 era coast artillery uniform as they restore and interpret Battery Gunnison and its 6-inch guns. Go back in time to May 1943 as the battery is being prepared for initial activation.

Family Camping at Sandy Hook

Visitor Center Parking Lot

Friday, May 25- Saturday, May 26

5 p.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy an overnight camping experience in Sandy Hook with a park ranger. Learn about Gateway NRA and Sandy Hook's history and natural environment. Call (732) 872-5970 for reservations.

American Littoral Society Horseshoe Crab Walk

Parking Lot B

Thursday, May 31

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Get up close and personal with a living fossil. Take an evening walk at Plum Island on Sandy Hook to look for spawning horseshoe crabs. Wear waterproof footwear. Great for families. Cost: Free. Call (732) 291-0055 for reservations.

Lighthouse Keepers Quarters

Artist Exhibit

Artist: Janice Marshack

March 31 – May 31

Janice's passion for photography is evident in her photojournalistic style. She is influenced by imagery that focuses on feelings rather than pictures. For more than three decades her photographs have consistently reflected her poetic vision, humor, and inventiveness while portraying her subjects with honesty. Janice's Sandy Hook Lighthouse exhibit features colorized black and white images shot in 2011. Several were taken at Fort Hancock on Sandy Hook.

Coastal Defenses Day and Ocean Fun Day

Sunday, May 20 Celebrating Gateway's 40th Anniversary

Battery Gunnison

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association will be in World War II uniform, bringing Battery Gunnison and its 6-inch guns to life as it was in May 1943. Participate in loading the guns, be a gun pointer and learn to track ships. Visit the plotting room to see how the guns were aimed and the magazine to learn how ammunition was stored and handled.

Mortar Battery

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

America's first concrete mortar battery that housed sixteen 12-inch caliber mortars, used to sink battleships between 1898-1919. The army later used the tunnel system as a "top secret" Harbor Defense Command Post during World War II.

Fort Hancock Parade Ground

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tour the gun batteries built on Sandy Hook and discover how Sandy Hook's fortifications defended New York Harbor from the 1890's to the 1970's. The Roseland Amateur Club will conduct shortwave radio broadcasts at the Sandy Hook Lighthouse.

History House

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

An Officer Row House furnished circa 1940's. World War II re-enactors will be onsite with their camp exhibit. Refreshments will be served. publication and notices of special programs and events, please email Charles.Markis@nps.gov, put "program guide" in the subject line to request addition to our list.

New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

Building 22, Fort Hancock

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

NJSGC 9th Annual Ocean Fun Day. Enjoy hands-on marine and environmental programs and exhibits. Free. Call NJSGC at (732) 872-1300 ext 19 for more information. On the web: www.njseagrant.org

NOAA Open House

James J. Howard Marine Laboratory

During Ocean Fun Day, check out the laboratories, aquariums, and scientific research performed at the Laboratory. For more information visit <http://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov> or call (732) 872 - 3000.

